THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 31st December 1953.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Status of washermen employed in Government institutions.

* 33 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the washermen employed in Government institutions such as hospitals, jails, hostels, etc., have been treated as Government servants eligible for leave, pension, etc.; and

(*b*) if not, why?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"(*a*) & (*b*) Dhobies employed in Government medical institutions, being members of the Madras Last Grade Service, are eligible for leave, pension, etc. No paid dhobies are employed in the Jail Department. In hostels attached to Government educational institutions, dhobies are usually engaged by students themselves on mutually agreed terms. In the Government School for the Blind, Poonamalle, Chingleput district, dhobies are paid out of contingencies and hence are not eligible for leave, pension, etc., benefits. As dhobies are employed only occasionally in isolated Government institutions, it is not considered possible to absorb them as members of a regular service so as to make them eligible for those benefits."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU:—"In hospitals run by Government the dhobies are working full-time. May I know whether the Government will treat their service as regular Government service?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"In Government medical institutions where they are employed they are eligible for leave, pension, etc."

DR. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU:—"May I know whether these people come under the non-pensionable category and their expenses are met out of office contingencies?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"I have been informed that dhobies employed in Government medical institutions are eligible for leave, pension, etc., being members of the Madras Last Grade Service."

Sri K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—" May I request the Government to arrive at a decision about the name of this community with the co-operation of the community? In three questions that are being put by Mr. Ethirajulu, in one the community is referred to as 'Vannar', in the second as 'Salavaikarar' and in the third as 'Washermen', and all the same, Government name them as 'Dhobies'?" (Laughter.)

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It is a professional name. It is an occupational name. It is not possible to invent and force a particular name upon the community. Those who speak Tamil call themselves '*Vannars*'. Those who speak Telugu use the name *Sakalavadu*. '*Salavaikarar*' is a Tamil-Telugu fusion. 'Dhobi' is a Hindustani term and is freely used all over the land. We call them 'Washermen' in English. If we try to insist on any particular name we will only have quarrels rather than settlement. It is better to leave things as they stand at present in each particular instance, rather than trying to invent a new name and force it on the community. Further the group is treated as a caste when they talk of certain privileges but it is really an occupation so far as the interests are concerned."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" What is the Malayalam name, Sir." (Laughter.)

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I think 'Vannar' as in Tamil."

Modified Elementary Education Scheme.

* 34 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names and official positions of the members of the Committee constituted in connexion with the new Elementary Education Scheme;

(*b*) the terms of reference to the Committee;

(*c*) when the Report of the Committee was received by the Government; and

(*d*) whether it will be placed before the Legislature for consideration; and if so, when?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) (1) Professor R. V. Parulekar (Chairman), Director of the Indian Institute of Education, Bombay.

(2) Dr. B. B. Dey, Retired Director of Public Instruction.

(3) Sri M. Mujeeb, Vice-Chanceller, Jamia Milia, Delhi.

(4) Sri S. Govindarajulu Naidu, (Member-Secretary), Director of Public Instruction, Madras, *now* Director of Public Instruction (Andhra).

" (*b*) The terms of the reference to the Committee were :

(i) to examine the system of elementary education as it prevailed in the State till last year and the manner in